

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
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Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Brother of Major Camden Drug Dealer Admits Conspiring with Others to Distribute Kilogram Quantities of Cocaine

(More)

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CAMDEN – The brother of former Camden drug leader Raymond Morales pleaded guilty today for his role in Morales' Continuing Criminal Enterprise that distributed in excess of 50 kilograms of cocaine in Camden, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

Andres Morales, 36, of Camden, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas to Count One of an Indictment, which was returned on April 25, 2007, that charges him with conspiring with Raymond Morales and others to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of powder cocaine, and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Judge Irenas scheduled sentencing for Aug. 11.

The defendant has been in custody since his arrest on May 10, 2007.

At his plea hearing, Morales admitted that in 2002 his half-brother, Raymond Morales, organized and led a major drug-trafficking organization in Camden. Morales admitted that in 2002 and 2003, he assisted that organization and knew that it was involved in the distribution of between 50 and 150 kilograms of cocaine.

Raymond Morales, 35, of Camden, pleaded guilty on July 27, 2005, to a nine-count Superseding Information. The Superseding Information, which was unsealed on May 9, 2007, charged Morales with six counts of ordering a murder in the furtherance of a CCE; one count of witness tampering by ordering the attempted murder of a witness; one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine; and one count of being a principal administrator of a CCE that operated in Camden.

The charge to which Andres Morales pleaded guilty carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of up to \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Irenas will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, in Newark, and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Unit, along with member agencies of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force, under the direction of Camden County Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, and ATF Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter, with developing the investigation which resulted in

the various Indictments.

The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force comprises the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Districts of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, The Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, Camden Police Department, New Jersey State Police, Philadelphia Police Department, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Department, Delaware River Port Authority Police and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Howard Wiener and Diana V. Carrig of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Michael E. Riley, Esq. Mount Holly